

In view of the peculiar situation arising out of scarcity of drinking water in rural areas in the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal the Government of India has decided to relax, as a one time measure, the priorities fixed in the guidelines relating to Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to the extent of providing that the funds under ARWSP could also be utilised for activities relating to repair, rejuvenation, renovation, restoration and replacement of existing rural drinking water supply schemes in areas affected by scarcity of drinking water in these States. This relaxation would be applicable only upto 30-6-2001. Similar relaxation has been made in the PMGY-Rural Drinking Water also.

The National Agenda for Governance (NAG) of the Government envisages provision of drinking water to all rural habitations in five years time. As per the Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) prepared on the basis of information furnished by the State Governments in consonance with the NAG, this objective could be achieved subject to availability of funds.

CAPART assistance to rural artisans of Bihar

†4368. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan of assistance has been implemented by 'CAPART' for providing financial and training assistance to rural artisans of Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of rural artisans who have been benefited so far by the said scheme; and

(c) what is the nature of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.